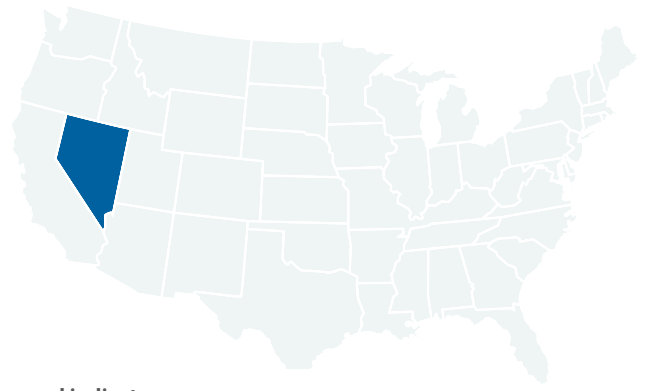


# Nevada

## Out of the Shadows Index: Shining a Light on Prevention of and Response to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the United States



It takes place mostly in the shadows, but sexual violence against children is happening everywhere, irrespective of income level, age, race, religion and sexual orientation. Yet, child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) can be solved, and there are strategies that have proved to be successful in reducing it. When CSEA is approached as a public health problem, with the child at the center of reforms, progress is possible.

The Out of the Shadows Index United States pilot (the US pilot index) aims to understand how states are tackling CSEA both in person and online. It serves as a tool for policymakers, frontline workers and civil society, capturing state action to combat CSEA and identifying key areas for attention.

### Background indicators

Population (m)	3.1
Population under 18 (%)	23.5
Median household income (US\$)	60,365
GDP per head (US\$)	54,894

### State summary

Nevada has taken a number of important steps to address CSEA in the state, including recently passing Assembly Bill 228<sup>1</sup> supporting Children's Advocacy Centers. Gaps exist within the provision of specialized medical care to victims survivors in hospitals and investment in holistic prevention education.

#### Where has progress been made?

**Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs):** In 2021, Nevada took an important step in recognizing the crucial role CACs play in providing holistic and coordinated care to child victims of sexual abuse and their family by passing Assembly Bill 228, which sets out key standards and enables access to more consistent funding for these centers.

**Specialized unit:** The Major Crimes Unit, within the Nevada State Police, is charged with investigating child abuse and sexual crimes against children. The Unit plays an important supporting role in many rural areas of Nevada, assisting on investigations where "smaller law enforcement agencies do not have the manpower, investigative resources, or political separation to conduct sensitive or complex investigations."<sup>2</sup>

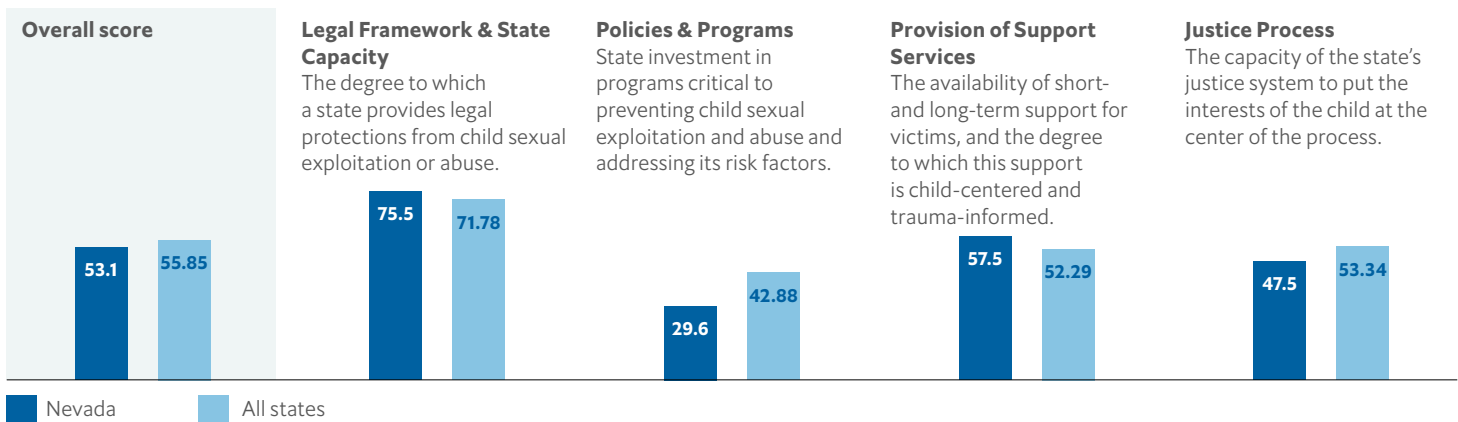
#### What more needs to be done?

**Data gaps:** Data on CSEA is critical to the development of effective policies and the allocation of sufficient resources. There is, however, currently a lack of data on prevalence, the number of cases reported to law enforcement, case progression, and case backlog.

**Medical care:** Nevada has no requirements for hospitals to have trained personnel available to provide forensic examinations and specialized medical care to victim-survivors of CSEA. Currently, victims may face long wait times, particularly in rural areas, where travel times to more accessible facilities can be upwards of 3-6 hours. Furthermore, ambiguity in the law over the specific services for sexual abuse victim-survivors paid for directly by the county has led to different approaches among hospitals in the state, with victim-survivors being billed directly for the receipt of some initial medical services.<sup>3</sup>

**Sex education:** Although Nevada requires public schools to provide basic sexuality and HIV/STI education to students, there are no requirements for this education to include information on contraception, or for instruction to be medically accurate or evidence based. Additionally, education for students on how to identify and protect themselves from sexual abuse, in-person or online, is not required. Training for teachers and other school personnel on child sexual abuse, peer-facilitated sexual violence, and/or the impacts of trauma is also not mandated.

### Index scores



1 <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7667/Overview>  
 2 <http://id.dps.nv.gov/Enforcement/MajorCrimes/MajorCrimes/>  
 3 <https://www.ncedsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/NCEDSV-SANE-Report.pdf>

## Out of the shadows: Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation

Indicator		Score/100	Indicator		Score/100
	<b>Prevention</b>	<b>52.5</b>		<b>Response</b>	<b>54.4</b>
<b>1.1)</b>	Gender Equality, Gender Protection and Marriage Laws	50.4	<b>3.1)</b>	Support - Child Welfare	30.4
<b>1.2)</b>	Consent Laws	75	<b>3.2)</b>	Support - Immediate Support and Recovery	74.2
<b>1.3)</b>	Laws Against CSEA	92.9	<b>3.3)</b>	Rehabilitation & Prevention	25
<b>1.4)</b>	Exemptions & Qualifiers	80.2	<b>3.4)</b>	Children's Response to Online Sexual Harms	85.6
<b>1.5)</b>	Background Checks/Disqualifications	70	<b>4.1)</b>	Child-Centered Emergency Response	42.1
<b>1.6)</b>	Data Availability	54.9	<b>4.2)</b>	Police Capacity	45.8
<b>2.1)</b>	Building Individual Skills & Knowledge	31.2	<b>4.3)</b>	Integrated Response and Coordination	75
<b>2.2)</b>	Educating Providers	16.7	<b>4.4)</b>	Judicial Processes	50
<b>2.3)</b>	Promoting Community Education	0	<b>4.5)</b>	Legal Representation & Advocacy	95.7
<b>2.4)</b>	Fostering Coalitions & Networks	0	<b>4.6)</b>	Monitoring & Evaluation	0
<b>2.5)</b>	Changing Organizational Practice	90			
<b>2.6)</b>	Influencing Policy & Legislation	28			

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#004a7c; border:1px solid #004a7c;"></span> First quartile (100-75)	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#0070c0; border:1px solid #0070c0;"></span> Second quartile (74.9-50)
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#4699c9; border:1px solid #4699c9;"></span> Third quartile (49.9-25)	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#99d9e9; border:1px solid #99d9e9;"></span> Fourth quartile (24.9-0)

For a full explanation of indicators, weightings and more detailed information on Nevada's performance, please see the interactive Excel model available on the [US pilot index website](#).

In addition to the full methodology, a report outlining the overall findings is also available.

### What is the Out of the Shadows Index?

The World Childhood Foundation USA's (Childhood USA) US pilot Out of the Shadows Index, developed by Economist Impact, examines how stakeholders are responding to the threat of child sexual abuse and exploitation in 12 states. It does not attempt to measure the scale of the problem or incorporate information on the prevalence of sexual violence against children in each state. Rather it uses 182 individual metrics aggregated into 22 indicators and grouped into four categories to measure the extent to which states are acknowledging the problem of sexual violence against children, and whether they are implementing measures to prevent and address the problem holistically.

While the US pilot index can help highlight key areas for attention, existing resources such as the Center for Disease Control's [Technical Package on Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect](#) and [Prevent Child Abuse America](#) offer more detailed information and support for implementation of solutions.

### Please use the following when citing this state profile:

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